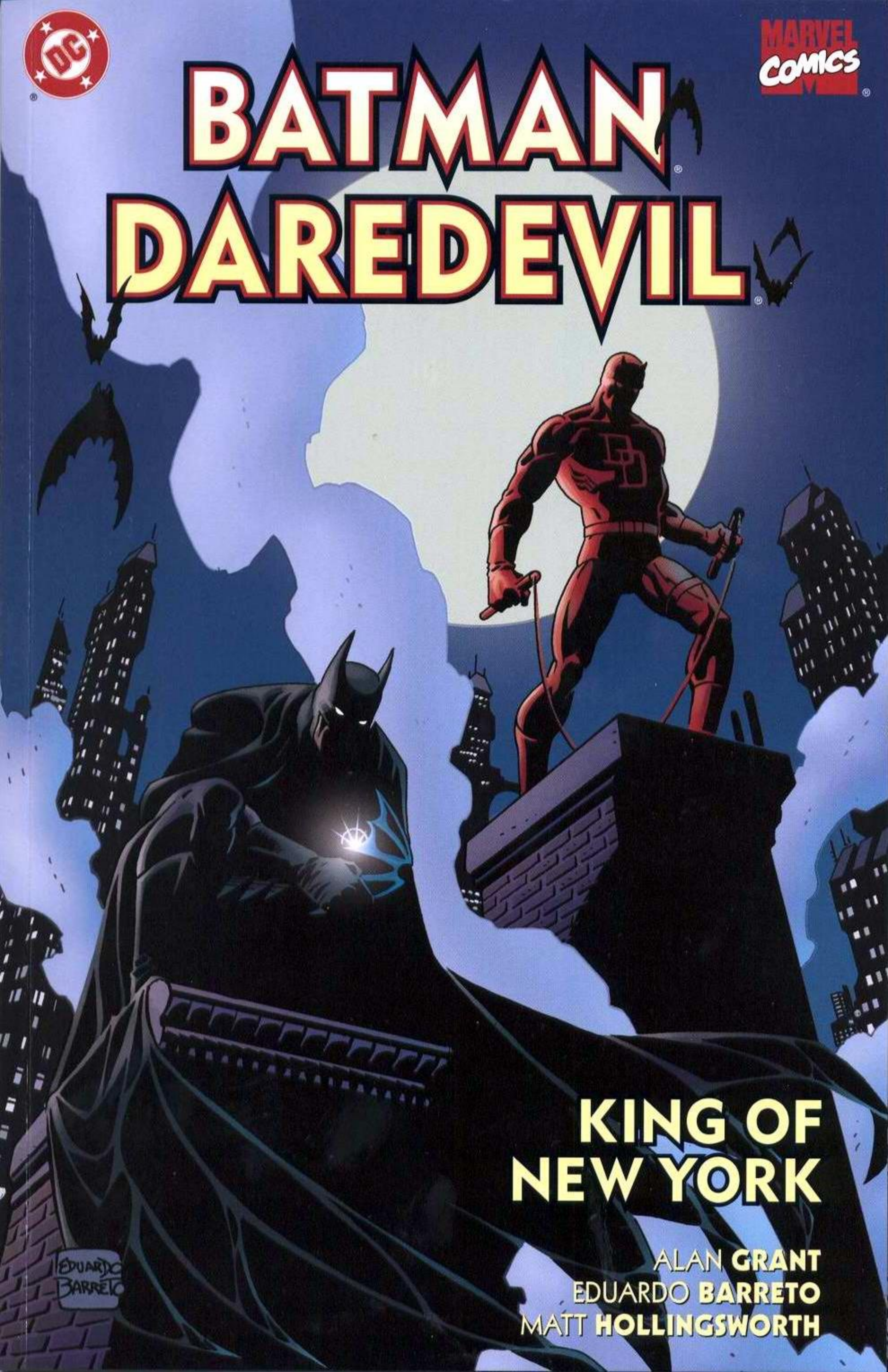




BATMAN DAREDEVIL



**KING OF
NEW YORK**

ALAN GRANT
EDUARDO BARRETO
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

EDUARDO
BARRETO

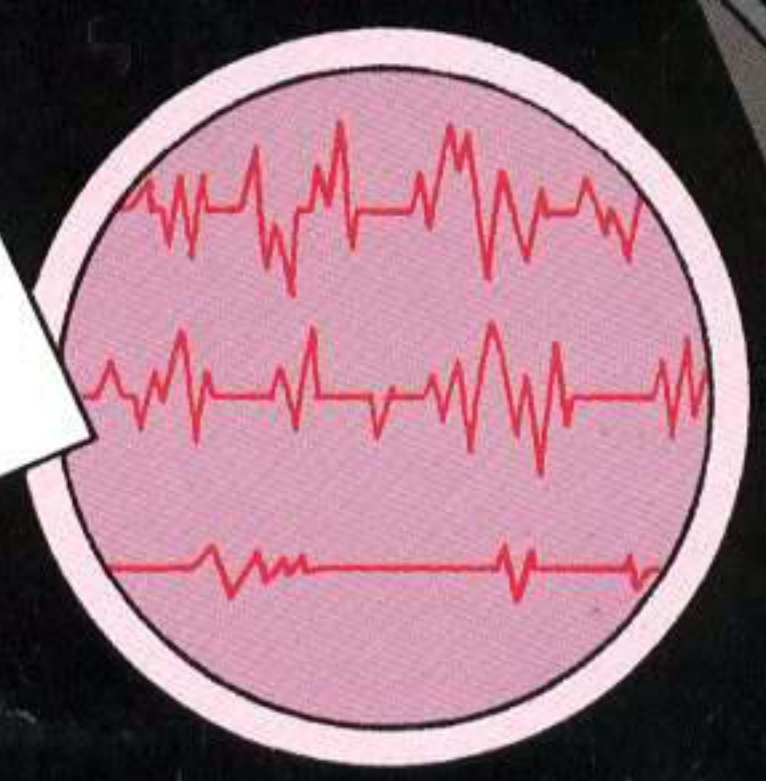


Chapter One

A DEVIL IN GOTHAM

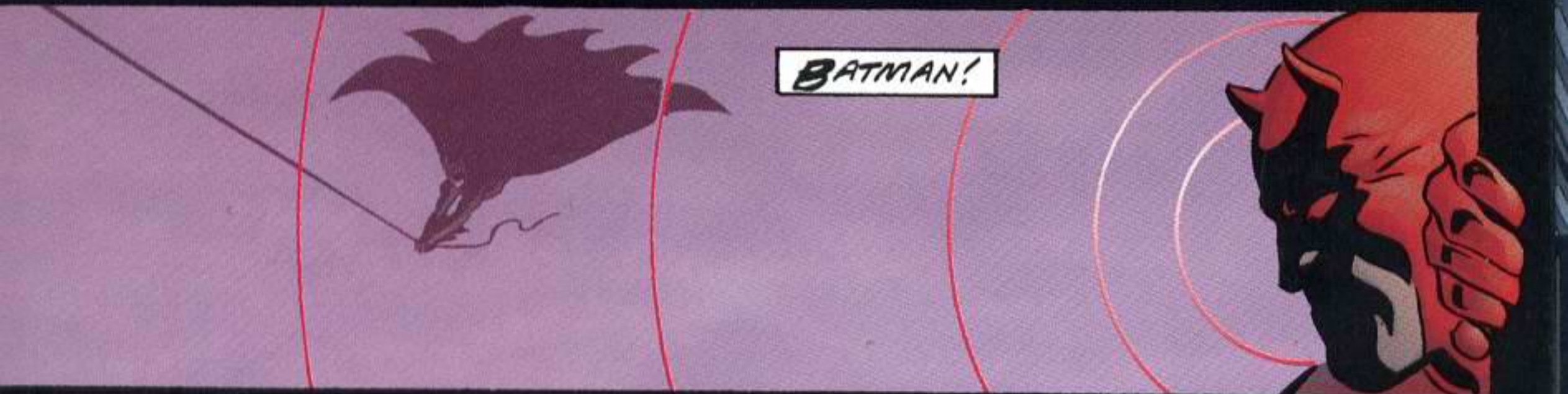
SHE'S REPUTED TO BE THE BEST THIEF IN GOTHAM CITY, MAYBE EVEN THE WORLD. WHICH EXPLAINS HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO BREAK INTO THE STEEL VULT AT THE MANHATTAN OFFICES OF SHANE, MURDOCK AND NELSON, AND STEAL THE KINGPIN'S FILES. THE ONLY QUESTION TO ANSWER NOW IS -- WHY?

THREE HEARTBEATS. ONE SLOW AND STEADY. THE OTHERS SPIKING ALL OVER THE PLACE. THEY'RE AFRAID OF HER?





CONCEALED IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CHILL GOTHAM NIGHT, DAREDEVIL FROWNS AS HIS HYPER-SENSES PICK UP A FOURTH HEARTBEAT--




BATMAN!



HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE COULDN'T COME TO GOTHAM CITY WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ITS LEGENDARY DEFENDER--

--BUT INTERFERENCE IS THE LAST THING HE NEEDS.

HE'S GONNA HATE ME FOR THIS!

A full-page comic book illustration featuring Daredevil and Batman. Daredevil, in his red and black suit with a white eye patch, is suspended in the air, holding onto a red energy beam that descends from the top right. He is looking down at Batman. Batman, in his black suit with a white bat emblem on the chest, is also suspended in the air, looking up at Daredevil. The background is a dense, stylized cityscape with various buildings and a large, dark, curved structure in the upper left. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and reds.

**300 FEET UP IS
A LONG WAY
DOWN.**

**ONE MAN KNOWS
HIS FEAR, RESPECTS
IT, AND HAS MADE
HIMSELF ITS MASTER.**

DAREDEVIL!

**THE OTHER MAN KNOWS
NO FEAR, AND IF HE DID--
HE WOULD LAUGH IN ITS
FACE!**

EVEN AS HE FALLS,
BATMAN REACTS
WITH LIGHTNING
SPEED--

DIDN'T
YOU LEARN
LAST TIME
WE MET
?

NEVER
COME
BETWEEN
ME AND MY
QUARRY.

NICE
MOVE, PAL!
JUST REMEMBER
--I'M THE ONE
HOLDING THE
LINE!

FOR
WHAT
THAT'S
WORTH!

THEY'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE
ROOF. NOT ENOUGH TIME TO
USE A LINE--

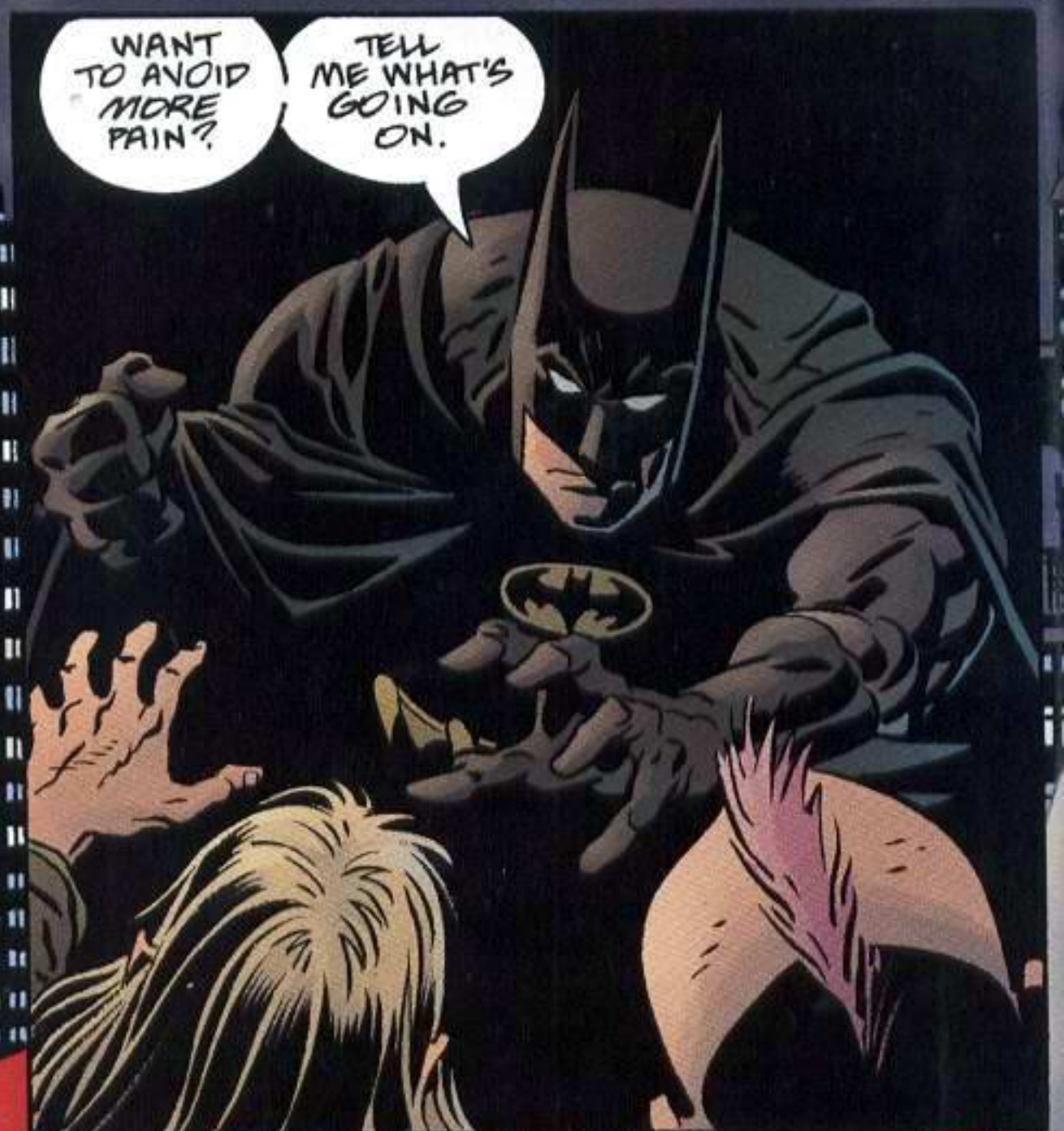
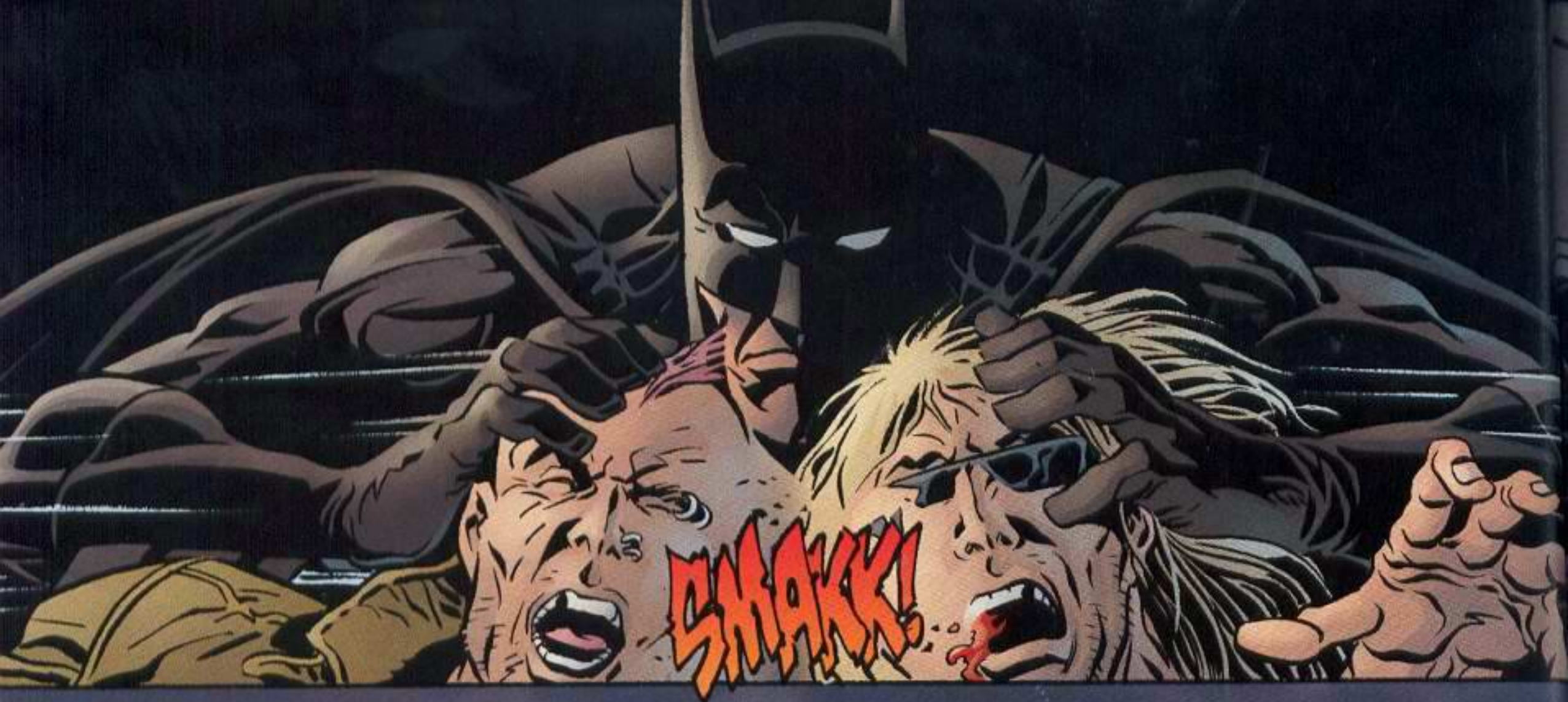


THEIR BODIES
TUMBLE AND
TWIST IN A GRIM
AERIAL BALLET
AS LONG-
PRACTICED
REFLEXES PREPARE
FOR LANDING--











FEEL
FREE TO BUTT
OUT, WHY DON'T
YOU? I CAN DO
THIS SOLO!



GOTHAM'S
MY CITY.
LIKE IT OR NOT,
I'M ALREADY
INVOLVED!

WHAT'S
IN THE
CASE?



DATA ON THE
KINGPIN--NEW
YORK'S TOP
HOODLUM.

DETAILS OF
MEETS, ASSOCIATES,
BUSINESSES OWNED.
SUSPICIONS
CONCERNING HIS
ACTIVITIES. EVERY-
THING A LAWYER
WOULD NEED IF HE
WAS PUTTING A BRIEF
TOGETHER!

WHY IS
THIS KINGPIN
OF INTEREST
TO ANYONE IN
GOTHAM?



THAT'S WHAT
I'M HERE TO FIND
OUT!

MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
EASIER IF YOU'D
LET ME KNOW
YOU WERE
COMING.



NEW YORK
BREEDS 'EM TOUGH.
WE DON'T ASK
FOR HELP!

IF WE
WORK TOGETHER,
THERE'S ONLY ONE
GROUND RULE-- I
DON'T TAKE ORDERS.
IF WE DO IT, WE DO
IT AS PARTNERS.
AGREED?

AGREED.

ON HIS PERCH, HIGH
ABOVE THE HAUNTS
OF MAN, A GROTESQUE
AND GAWKY FIGURE
SITS--

HIS EVERY SENSE IS ATTUNED
TO THE PULSE OF THE CITY,
FEEDING ON THE FEARS THAT RUN
GIBBERING THROUGH ITS TAWDRY
STREETS--

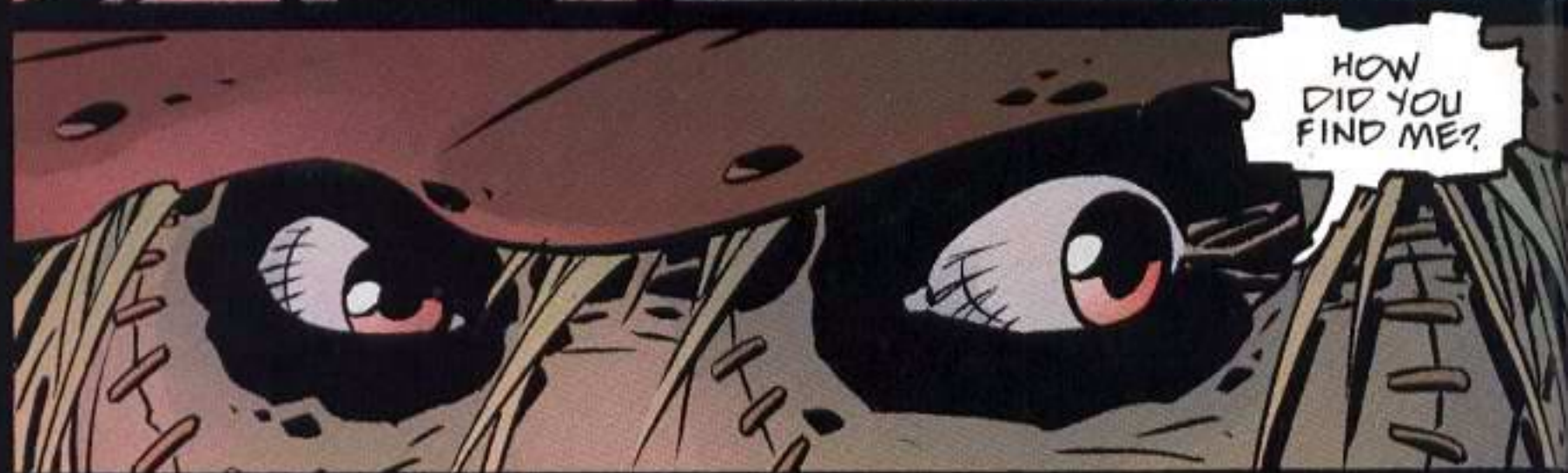
FEAR OF BEING
ROBBED. FEAR OF
ASSAULT. FEAR OF
LOVE. FEAR OF HATE.
FEAR OF DEATH.
FEAR OF LIFE.

THE SCARECROW
DRINKS THEM IN
LIKE NECTAR.

HOW
DID YOU
FIND ME?

CATS ARE GOOD
AT FINDING
THEIR WAY IN THE
DARK--

ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY'VE
BEEN
DENIED THEIR
CREAM!





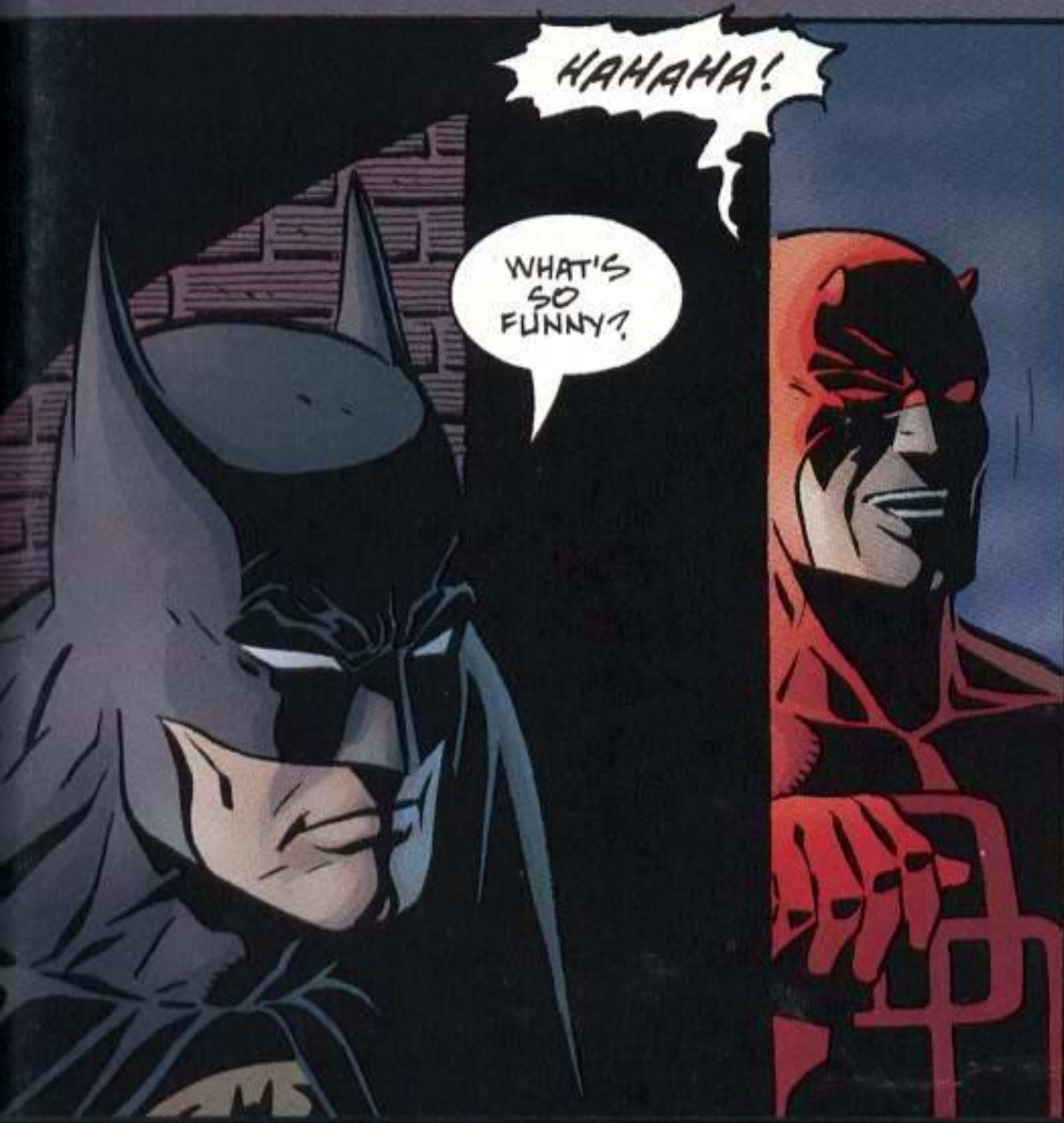
WE'RE
CLOSING
IN!

BATMAN
AND SOME OTHER
COSTUMED JERK
SHOWED UP AT
THE MEET.
TURNED OUT
THERE WAS A
TRACKER IN
THE CASE.

beepbeepbeep...



WE'RE
ALMOST
ON HER!



HAHAHA!

WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?



YOU HAVEN'T
LED THEM
HERE?

RELAX.
THEY'RE
OUT ON
THE
TILES!



SHE
DITCHED
US!



YOUR MONEY WAS
LOST. I STILL HAVE THE
CASE IF YOU STILL WANT
TO TRADE.

PRICE HAS GONE
UP, THOUGH. TWO
HUNDRED THOU.
COMPENSATION FOR
MY TROUBLE.

LUGGAGE LOCKER
AT GRAND UNION
STATION.



MONEY IS
NOTHING. FEAR
IS EVERYTHING.

FIRST, I TAKE
MANHATTAN!

HROOO!
HRAAAA!

Chapter Two: GUNS AND ROSES

BATMAN AND
DAREDEVIL
HAVE WORKED
TOGETHER BEFORE,
THEY DIDN'T REALLY
GET ON THEN.

THEY DON'T
REALLY GET
ON NOW.


BATCAVE,
HUH? REED
RICHARDS, EAT
YOUR HEART
OUT!

YOU
REALLY TAKE
WHAT YOU DO
SERIOUSLY,
DON'T YOU?

I
HAVE
TO.

GOTHAM
CITY BREEDS
'EM EXTRA
TOUGH.





TRACES
OF THE THUG'S
SWEAT AND
BODY OILS
ADHERED TO MY
GAUNTLET.

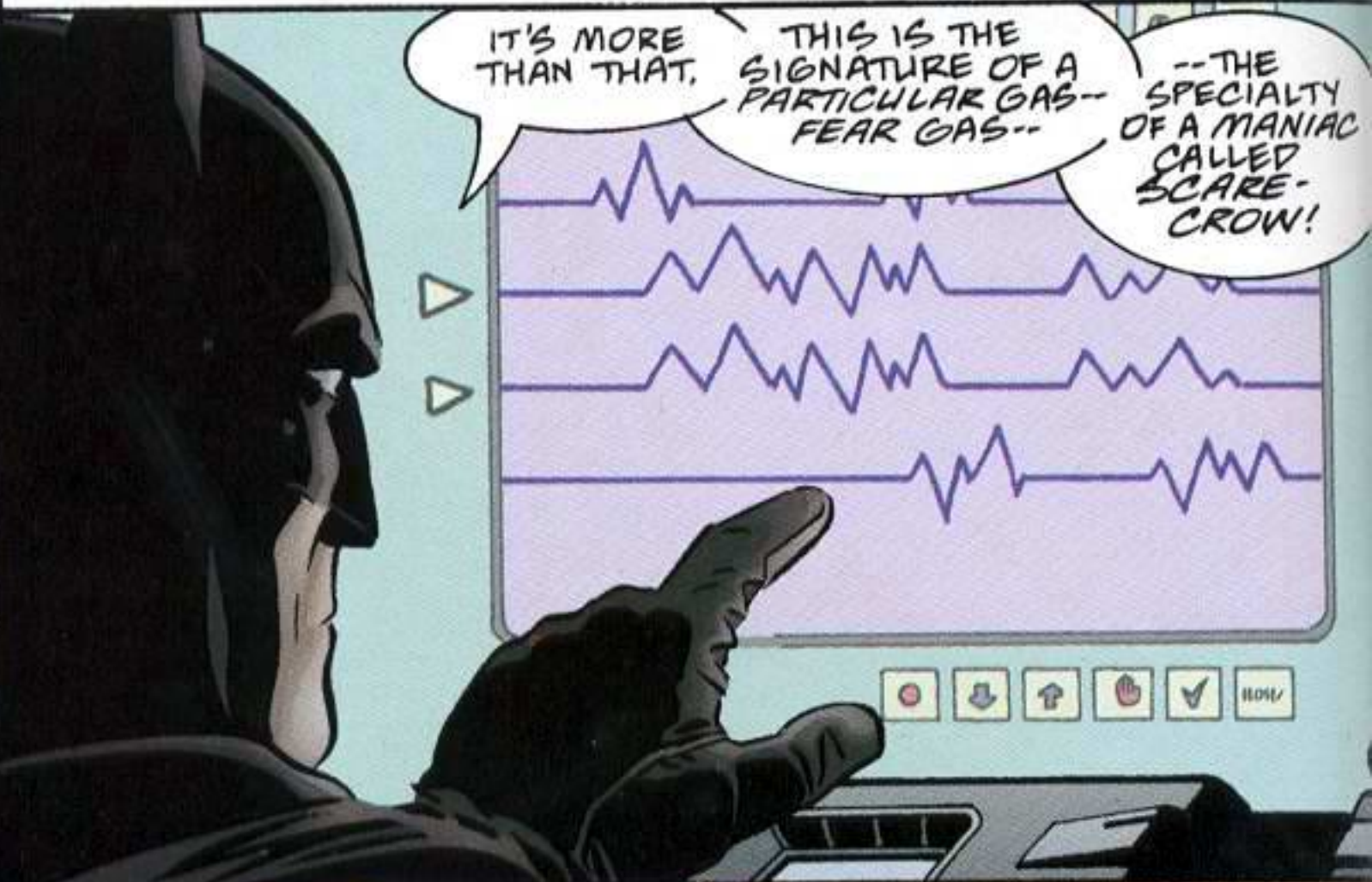


HERE'S
WHY THEY
WERE TOO
TERRIFIED TO
TALK!

THEY'VE
RECENTLY BEEN
SUBJECTED TO
SOME SORT OF
CHEMICAL
INTAKE.

THEIR
NOREPINEPHRINE
LEVELS GO
OFF THE
SCALE!


I
FIGURED
THEY WERE
AFRAID OF
CATWOMAN.



IT'S MORE
THAN THAT.

THIS IS THE
SIGNATURE OF A
PARTICULAR GAS--
FEAR GAS--

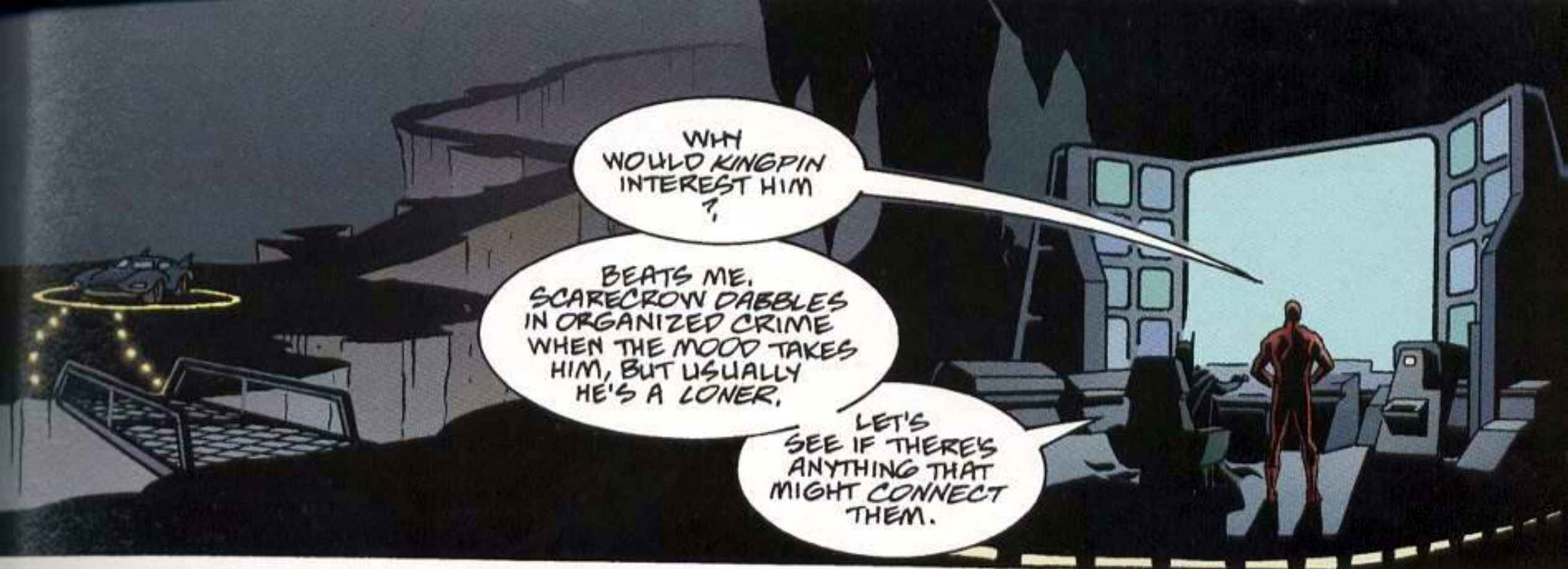
--THE
SPECIALTY
OF A MANIAC
CALLED
SCARE-
CROW!



Sheesh! YOU
BREED 'EM WEIRD
AS WELL!

PROFESSOR
JONATHAN CRANE
PSYCHOTIC GENIUS.
FRIGHTENED BY BIRDS
AS A CHILD, HE ADOPTED
THE IDENTITY OF A
SCARECROW WHEN
HIS MIND FINALLY
CRACKED.

HIS
MAIN PURPOSE
NOW IS
SPREADING
FEAR.



WHY
WOULD KINGPIN
INTEREST HIM
?

BEATS ME.
SCARECROW DABBLES
IN ORGANIZED CRIME
WHEN THE MOOD TAKES
HIM, BUT USUALLY
HE'S A LONER.

LET'S
SEE IF THERE'S
ANYTHING THAT
MIGHT CONNECT
THEM.



THIS IS A LIST
OF CRIMES WITH A
POSSIBLE GOTHAM/
NEW YORK
AXIS.

DRUG DEALING
OR GUN
SMUGGLING
SEEM TO BE THE
MOST LIKELY
BET--

SCARECROW'S
CAPABLE OF
EITHER.



BUT THE
MAN IS INSANE.
ANYTHING HE
DOES IS LIKELY
TO HAVE A
HIDDEN
AGENDA.

WE'D
BETTER
UNCOVER
IT--



--BEFORE HE
PUTS ANY OF HIS
PLANS INTO
OPERATION.

FROM A NUMBERS
RACKETEER ON
DOW STREET--

A DOORMAN AT
THE MAMBO
CLUB--

THE BROTHER HAS
HEARD GOSSIP. HE
IS ABLE TO NAME A
ROAD--AND A TIME--

--THEY GOT
THE NAMES
OF THREE
PRO DRIVERS
SPENDING
BIG IN
RECENT
WEEKS.

--RELUCTANTLY
PROVIDES HIS
BROTHER'S
WHEREABOUTS.

SURE
YOU WOULDN'T
PREFER TO
RIDE ON THE
OUTSIDE?

ONCE
WAS ENOUGH,
THANKS!





THEY
TOOK OUT
OUR TIRES!
I CAN'T
CONTROL
HER--!







SCARECROW
USED US AS
DECOYS
TO GET TO
US.

YOU
WERE
MEANT
TO DIE,
TOO.

SO WHERE
CAN WE
FIND
HIM?



I...UH,
I DUNNO!

YOU'D BE
DEAD IF IT
WASN'T FOR US,
TALK!



HE SAID HE
WASN'T GONNA
BE AROUND FOR
A WHILE.
SOMETHIN' TO DO
WITH BUSINESS
IN THE BIG
APPLE!

YOU'VE
MADE
THESE RUNS
BEFORE?

Y-YEAH.
COUPLA
TIMES.

GIVE US
THE DELIVERY
ADDRESS!

FIFTY MILES AWAY, ANOTHER TRUCK ENTERS MANHATTAN. ONE AMONG MANY, IT HEADS DOWN THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY--

--BEFORE PULLING OFF INTO ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE BAD THINGS HAPPEN AFTER DARK. AND NOBODY GOES--

IT'S COMING!

DOUSE YOUR LIGHTS!

CLOSE THE GATE! MOVE IT--THE KINGPIN WANTS THIS DONE FAST!

Huh?



NEW YORK,
NEW YORK,
I PRESUME?



WHERE'S
THE
GUNS?

YOU'RE
HOLDING
THEM, AREN'T
YOU?, FROM
THE LAST
SHIPMENTS
I SENT?

YOU PROBABLY
DIDN'T REALIZE THE
STOCKS WERE
IMPREGNATED WITH
ONE OF MY PATENT
GASES. IT MAKES ITS
VICTIMS EXTRA
SUGGESTIBLE.

FOR INSTANCE--
YOU WORK FOR THE
KINGPIN, BUT NOW
YOU'VE DECIDED
YOU'LL WORK FOR
ME.

FOR FREE,
I MIGHT
ADD.

AND, OF COURSE,
KINGPIN IS
YOUR SWORN
ENEMY!





A FLASH OF FEAR--A ROAR OF GUNS--THEN SILENCE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE DEMENTED LAUGHTER OF A TORMENTED MAN--



AS IT LEACHES OUT INTO THE CRUMBLING STREETS, THE FEW CITIZENS AROUND PULL THEIR COLLARS UP TIGHTER, LOWER THEIR HEADS AND HURRY ON--





WHAT?!

Chapter Three:

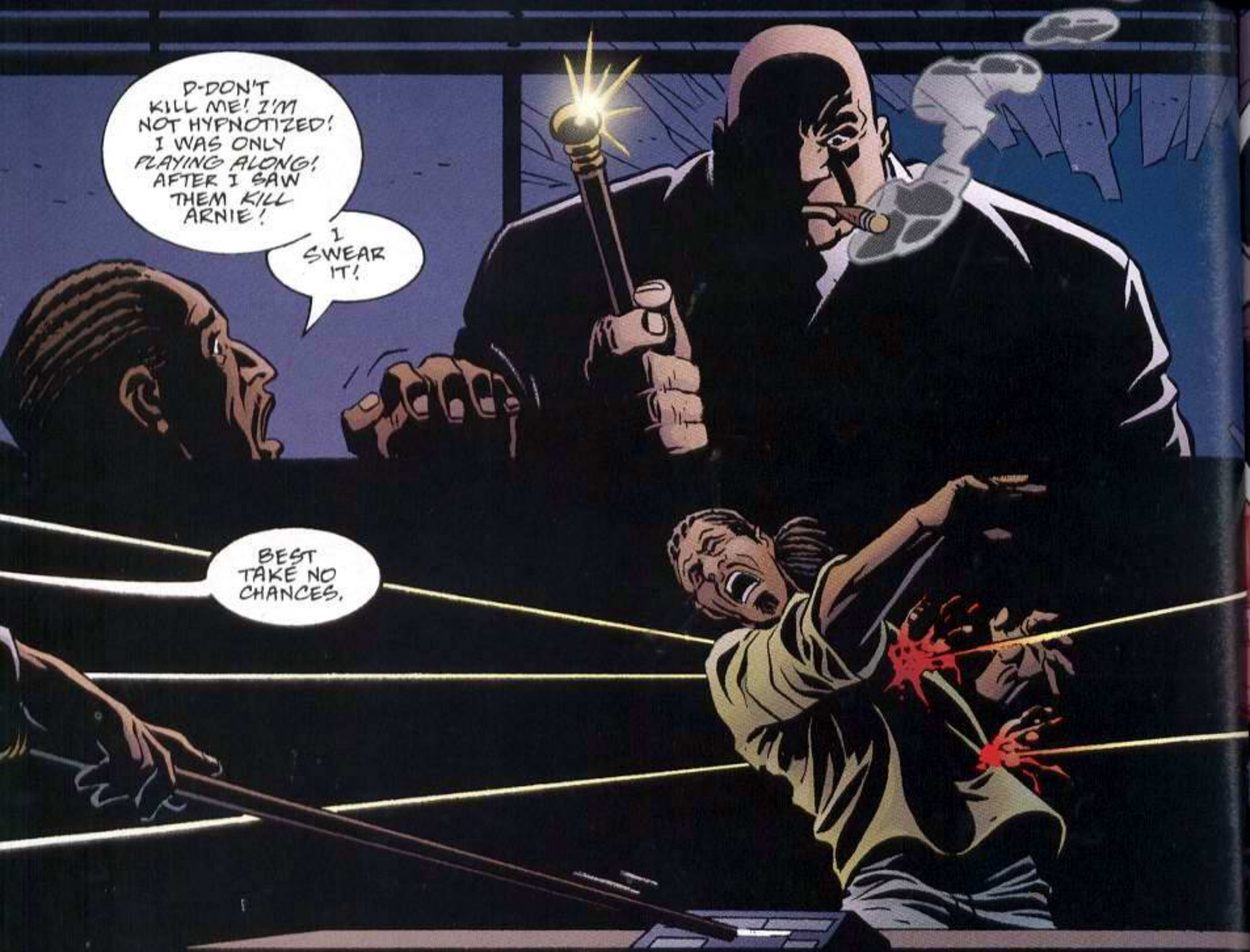
A DARK KNIGHT IN MANHATTAN

Y-YOU
KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY, KINGPIN
--DON'T
SHOOT THE
MESSENGER!

YOU'RE
TELLING ME THIS
GOTHAM GEEK HAS
DOUBLE-CROSSED
ME--HYPNOTIZED MY
OWN MEN--AND SAYS
HE'S TAKEN OVER
MY ENTIRE
OPERATION?

THAT'S
ABOUT IT.
SCARECROW'S
THE KING OF
NEW YORK
NOW!





D-DON'T
KILL ME! I'M
NOT HYPNOTIZED!
I WAS ONLY
PLAYING ALONG!
AFTER I SAW
THEM KILL
ARNIE!

I
SWEAR
IT!

BEST
TAKE NO
CHANCES.

SO...
SCARECROW HAS
DETAILS OF ALL MY
BUSINESSES, PROPERTIES
AND EMPLOYEES.
I NO LONGER HAVE
AN ARMY TO DO MY
BIDDING.

FINE.
HE'LL LEARN.
NOBODY PUTS
THE BITE ON
ME.

KING
OF NEW
YORK.

THAT
GEEK COULDN'T
BE KING OF
PODUNK!





NAME'S
ARNIE HOWES,
HE'S BEEN SHOT
TEN, MAYBE
A DOZEN
TIMES!

GUESS
WE GOT ANOTHER
"UNSOLVED" FOR
THE FILES,
WHOEVER'S BEEN
HANGING OUT
HERE'S LONG
GONE!



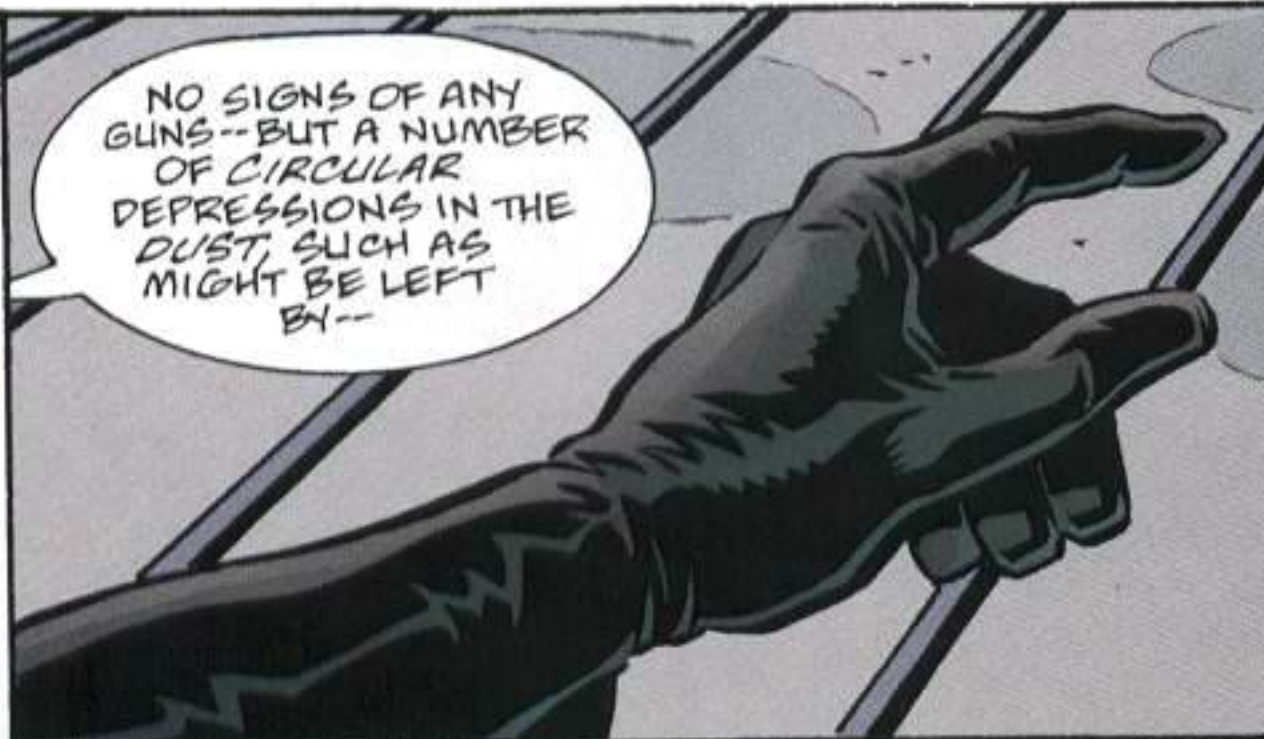
LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE
RUN INTO
A DEAD
END!

STRANGE...
IF YOUR
SCARECROW
CAME IN MOB-
HANDED, I'D
EXPECT--




STRAW!

IT'S
SCARECROW,
ALL RIGHT!



NO SIGNS OF ANY GUNS--BUT A NUMBER OF CIRCULAR DEPRESSIONS IN THE DUST, SUCH AS MIGHT BE LEFT BY--

GAS CANISTERS!



BUT NO CLUE OF WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE--OR WHY! PERHAPS--




QUIET!



THERE'S A NEWSFLASH COMING IN ON THAT TV!

WHAT TV?



-- THE PAST HOUR, A SERIES OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS HAS ROCKED SEVERAL CITY LOCATIONS!



"AT FERNIE'S RESTAURANT ON BROADWAY, SEVERAL MEN, BELIEVED TO BE EMPLOYEES, OPENED FIRE ON CUSTOMERS. POLICE REPORT THREE DEAD AND ELEVEN WOUNDED.



"LESS THAN TEN MINUTES LATER, AN EXCLUSIVE JEWELER'S SHOP ON FIFTH AVENUE WAS BOMBED--

"--WHILE FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED A BLAZE AT THE TRENDY X-CLUB IN THE CITY'S DOCKLAND. POLICE SOURCES INDICATE ARSON!



"ACROSS THE WATER, IN QUEENS, AT LEAST FIVE MEN HAVE DIED IN WHAT MAY BE THE OPENING MOVES OF A GANGLAND WAR!



IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THESE CRIMES, PLEASE CALL--

IF I REMEMBER THE FILE CATWOMAN STOLE, THESE ARE ALL KINGPIN-RELATED OPERATIONS!

LOOKS LIKE SCARECROW INTENDS TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE FIELD!

WHY?

HEY, CHIEF RACKETEER IN N.Y.C. IS NO CHEEZY JOB! IT CARRIES A LOT OF REWARDS!

IT'S NOT SCARECROW'S STYLE. THERE HAS TO BE MORE TO IT!

HE LIVES ON OTHER PEOPLE'S FEAR. IT'S LIKE FOOD AND DRINK TO HIM!

HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB SPREADING PANIC IN NEW YORK, THEN.



ANY
IDEAS
WHERE WE
MIGHT FIND
HIM?

THE
ATTACK
LOCATIONS
ARE SPREAD
OUT ALL
OVER THE
CITY.

HE
COULD BE
AT ANY--
OR NONE--
OF
THEM!



THERE'S
ONE MAN
WHO
MIGHT
KNOW--

--KINGPIN.

ONE PHONE CALL IS ALL IT TAKES TO SET UP THE MEET. DAREDEVIL IS SUSPICIOUS, BUT KINGPIN'S PULSE IS SLOW AND STEADY. HE CAN'T READ HIS MAN THAT WAY--

GIVEN OUR PAST HISTORY, DAREDEVIL, I'M SURPRISED YOU SHOULD COME TO ME FOR HELP.



I'LL PUT ALL MY CARDS ON THE TABLE, KINGPIN. I KNOW SCARECROW HAS BEEN RUNNING GUNS INTO NEW YORK, I FIGURE HE'S DOUBLE-CROSSED YOU AND IS TRYING TO TAKE OVER YOUR TURF.

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW ANY SCARECROW, AND YOUR ALLEGATION ABOUT MY BUSINESS--

THIS IS SERIOUS, KINGPIN! IT'S NOT JUST HOODLUMS WHO'RE DYING OUT THERE!

AND IF WHAT I HEAR ABOUT SCARECROW IS RIGHT, IT'S LIKELY TO BE MERE STREET THEATER BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT!



REPEAT THEM AND WE'LL LET THE LAWYERS HANDLE IT.



IS THAT WHY YOU BROUGHT YOUR GOTHAM FRIEND ALONG?





COME
IN, WHY
DON'T
YOU?



SCARECROW'S
FAVORITE
WEAPON IS
FEAR GAS.

IT GIVES
HIM A KICK
TO TERRIFY
PEOPLE--THE
MORE THE
BETTER.



DO YOU OWN, OR
HAVE AN INTEREST
IN, ANY BUILDINGS THAT
COULD BE USED TO SPREAD
FEAR GAS THROUGH
NEW YORK?



OF COURSE, I'M NOT
ADMITTING TO ANYTHING...
BUT YOU MIGHT FIND THAT
WESTSIDE TOWER FITS
YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

I BELIEVE IT'S
STAFFED WITH PEOPLE
WHO...DON'T ALWAYS
OBSERVE THE
LAWS.



YOU SEEM
UNWORRIED BY ALL
THIS, CONSIDERING IT'S
YOUR OPERATIONS--

ALLEGED
OPERATIONS.



--SCARECROW'S
DESTROYING. CARE
TO TELL ME
WHY?

NO.

HOW DO WE GET TO WESTSIDE?

I'M NOT SO SURE WE SHOULD.

YOUR HYPER SENSES " " ?

DIDN'T PICK IT UP, BUT I DON'T TRUST HIM.

IF HE SAYS "BLACK," YOU CAN BET THE REAL ANSWER'S "WHITE!"

THAT SOUND --!

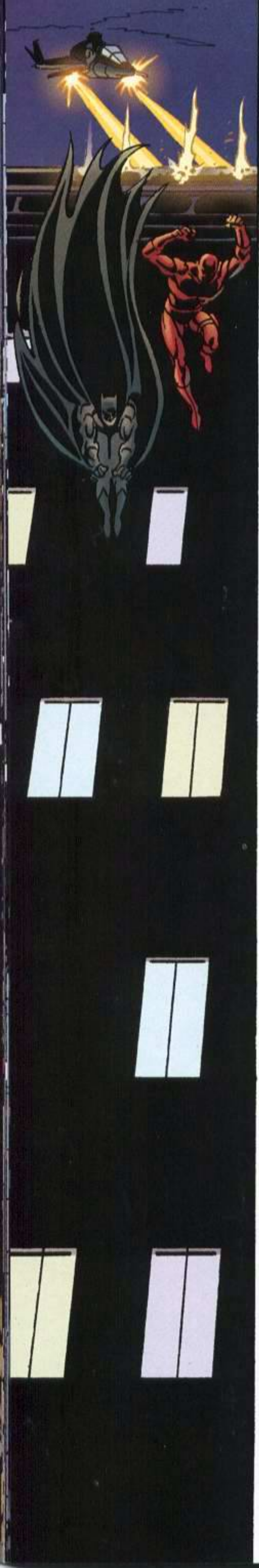
KINGPIN'S A LIAR.

KINGPIN!



BAKKA BAKKA BAKKA BAKKA BAKKA





AT
LEAST WE
LEARNED ONE
THING--THE
CHOPPER'S
HEADING
SOUTH.

KINGPIN
KNOWS
WHERE
HE'S
GOING.





"GIVE ME YOUR TIRED,
YOUR POOR, YOUR
HUDDLED MASSES
YEARNING TO BREATHE
FREE..."

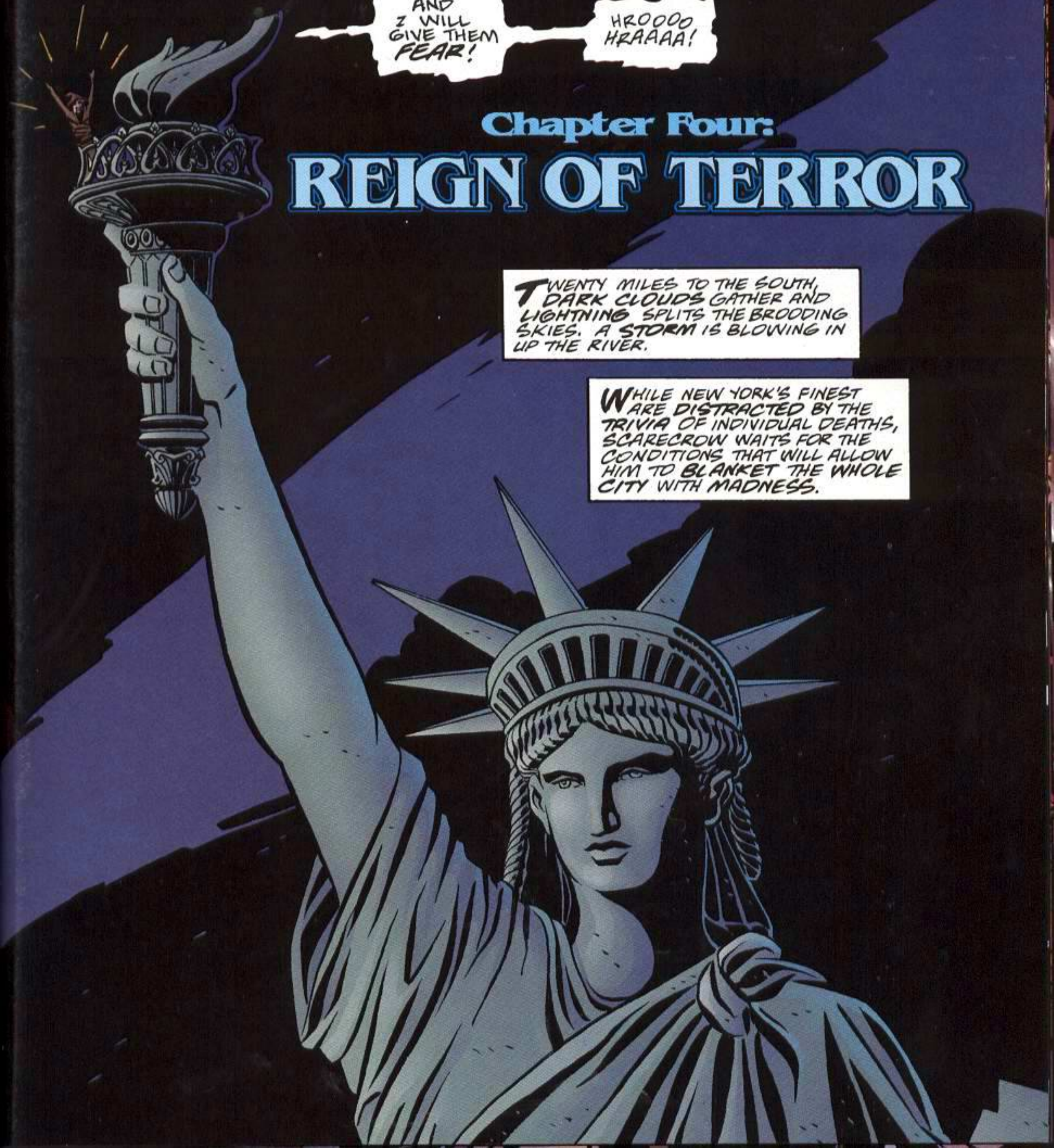
AND
I WILL
GIVE THEM
FEAR!

HROOO
HRAAAA!

Chapter Four: **REIGN OF TERROR**

TWENTY MILES TO THE SOUTH,
DARK CLOUDS GATHER AND
LIGHTNING SPLITS THE BROODING
SKIES. A STORM IS BLOWING IN
UP THE RIVER.

WHILE NEW YORK'S FINEST
ARE DISTRACTED BY THE
TRIVIA OF INDIVIDUAL DEATHS,
SCARECROW WAITS FOR THE
CONDITIONS THAT WILL ALLOW
HIM TO BLANKET THE WHOLE
CITY WITH MADNESS.





FRIEND?
FOE?



WHO
CARES?



MY
INFORMANTS
SAID THE INTRUDER
WAS LOOKING
FOR A HIGH
PLACE.

I'VE
ELIMINATED
ALL THE TALL
BUILDINGS...



...SO HE'S NOT
AT A BUILDING.
HE'S AT A
STATUE.



THERE'S A STORM BLOWING
IN--PERFECT FOR SCARECROW'S
PURPOSE!

SOUNDS
LIKE KINGPIN
BOUGHT THE
FARM!

BUT
I WOULDN'T
COUNT ON
IT.

SCARECROW WAITS FOR THE STORM THAT WILL BLOW HIS GAS OVER THE CITY, DISSOLVING IN THE RAINWATER, WASHING ONTO THE STREETS AND THE PEOPLE, TO BRING PANIC AND HORROR IN ITS WAKE--

--WHILE KINGPIN KNOWS NOT FEAR, BUT IRRITATION, THAT HE SHOULD BE HUMILIATED BY A RAGDOLL FROM A DUMP LIKE GOTHAM--

--AND TWO HEROES RACE TO STOP MASS MURDER--

WE GOT COMPANY!

PLAY IT LIKE THE BOSS SAID --BLOW 'EM AWAY!

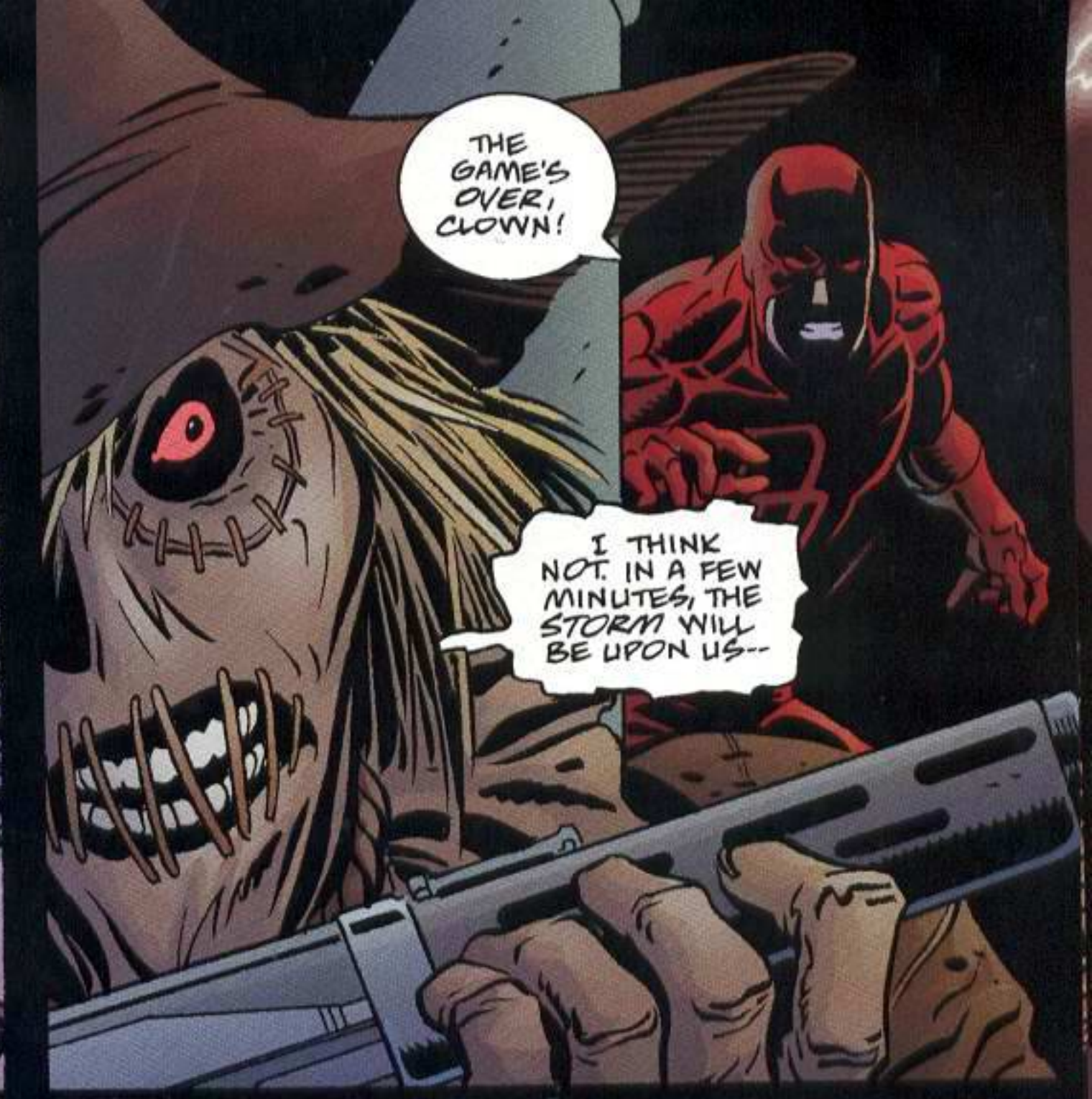








DON'T GO AWAY. I'M ONLY WARMING UP!



THE GAME'S OVER, CLOWN!

I THINK NOT. IN A FEW MINUTES, THE STORM WILL BE UPON US--




--AND NEW YORK WILL SUFFER LIKE NO CITY SINCE SODOM AND GOMORRAH!



IN YOUR DREAMS--




--OR SHOULD THAT BE NIGHTMARES?



BATMAN IS ONE OF THE MOST
SUPERB ATHLETES ON EARTH,
A MAN WHOSE MISSION OF JUSTICE
DEMANDS SUPREME ABILITIES--

-- WHILE THE KINGPIN OF
CRIME IS A MASS OF
SOLID MUSCLE--



-- WHO MOVES FASTER
THAN ANY MAN OF HIS
BULK HAS A RIGHT TO!

THERE'S NO FUTURE
IN TRADING BLOW FOR
BLOW WITH HIM--

-- I'LL JUST HAVE
TO GET MY SHOTS IN
WHEN I CAN!



TASTE
FEAR, MY
FRIEND!

YOU'RE
GOING BACK
TO THE RUBBER
ROOM, BABY!

THE EFFECTS ARE IMMEDIATE.
FEAR'S CHILL FINGERS CLUTCH
AT THE HERO'S HEART. HIS BLOOD
RUNS COLD AS ICEWATER. ALL
THE DEMONS HE HAS EVER
FACED HISS, TAUNTING IN HIS
EARS--

A TIDAL WAVE OF TERROR
BREAKS OVER HIM.
THREATENS TO ENGULF
HIM, TO BLOT OUT THE
VERY ESSENCE OF WHAT
HE IS--

ANOTHER MAN--ANY
OTHER MAN-- WOULD
CRACK BENEATH THAT
ONSLAUGHT OF PURE,
UNTAINTED FEAR--



BUT DAREDEVIL IS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR. DEFIANTLY, HE THROWS BACK HIS HEAD AND LAUGHS IN ITS FACE!

AAH?



TASTE FEAR YOURSELF, CREEP!

AAAAAH!



AND YOU'RE STILL GOING TO THE RUBBER ROOM!

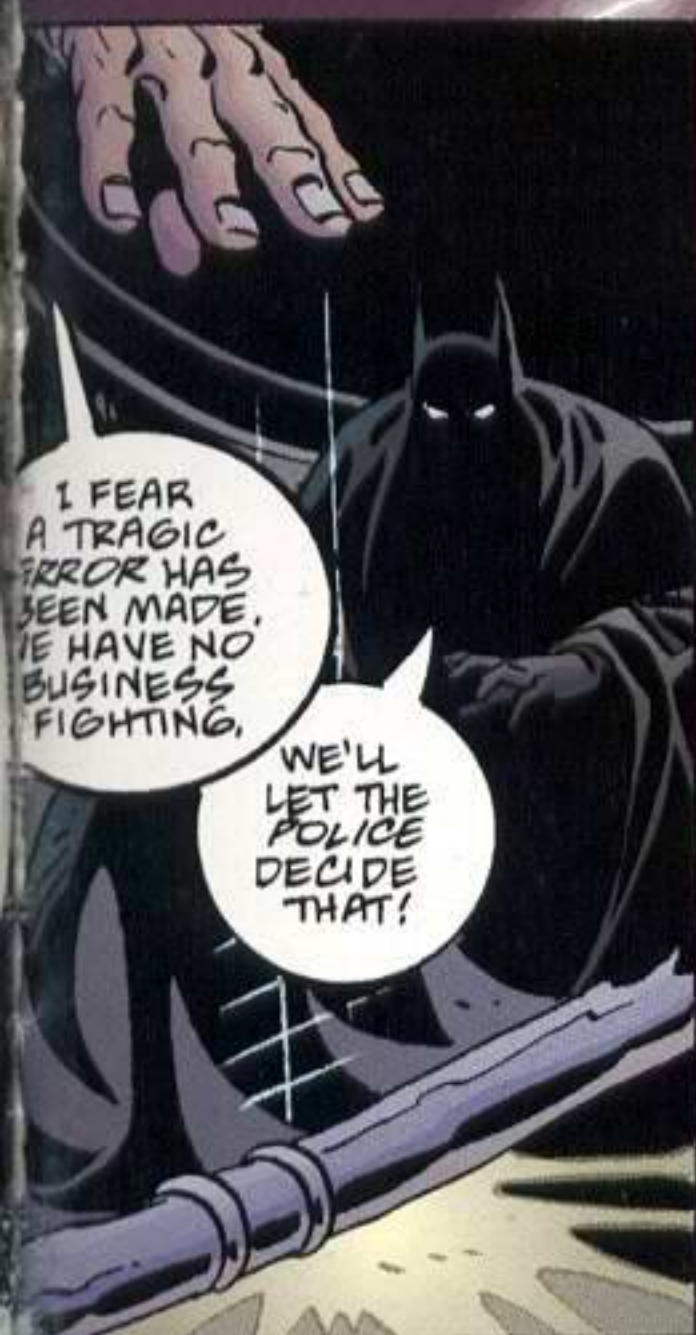


I CAN'T
DODGE HIM
FOREVER IN
THIS CONFINED
SPACE--

I'VE
GOT
HIM,
BATMAN!



DO YOU
HEAR ME?
SCARECROW'S
HISTORY!



I FEAR
A TRAGIC
ERROR HAS
BEEN MADE.
WE HAVE NO
BUSINESS
FIGHTING,

WE'LL
LET THE
POLICE
DECIDE
THAT!



EXCELLENT IDEA!
I'M SURE THEY'LL ALL BE
RIVETED BY THE TALE OF
TWO VIGILANTES TRYING
TO GAS THE CITY IN CAHOOTS
WITH A GOTHAM
LUNATIC.



AND I'LL LOOK
FORWARD TO LEARNING
YOUR SECRET IDENTITY
WHEN MY LAWYERS
INSIST YOU APPEAR
IN COURT.

TOODLE
PIP, OLD
CHUM!



SO
KINGPIN
WALKS?

HE
ALWAYS DOES,
BUT HE'S LOST
GUNS--MEN--
MONEY--

--AND
I'D LOVE TO
HEAR HIS
EXPLANATION TO
THE COPS IN THE
MORNING!



YOU
WIN SOME.
YOU LOSE
SOME.

YOU
FIND
THAT,
TOO?



MORE
OFTEN
THAN I'D
LIKE.

WELCOME
TO THE
CLUB.

CLUB?

HUMANITY.



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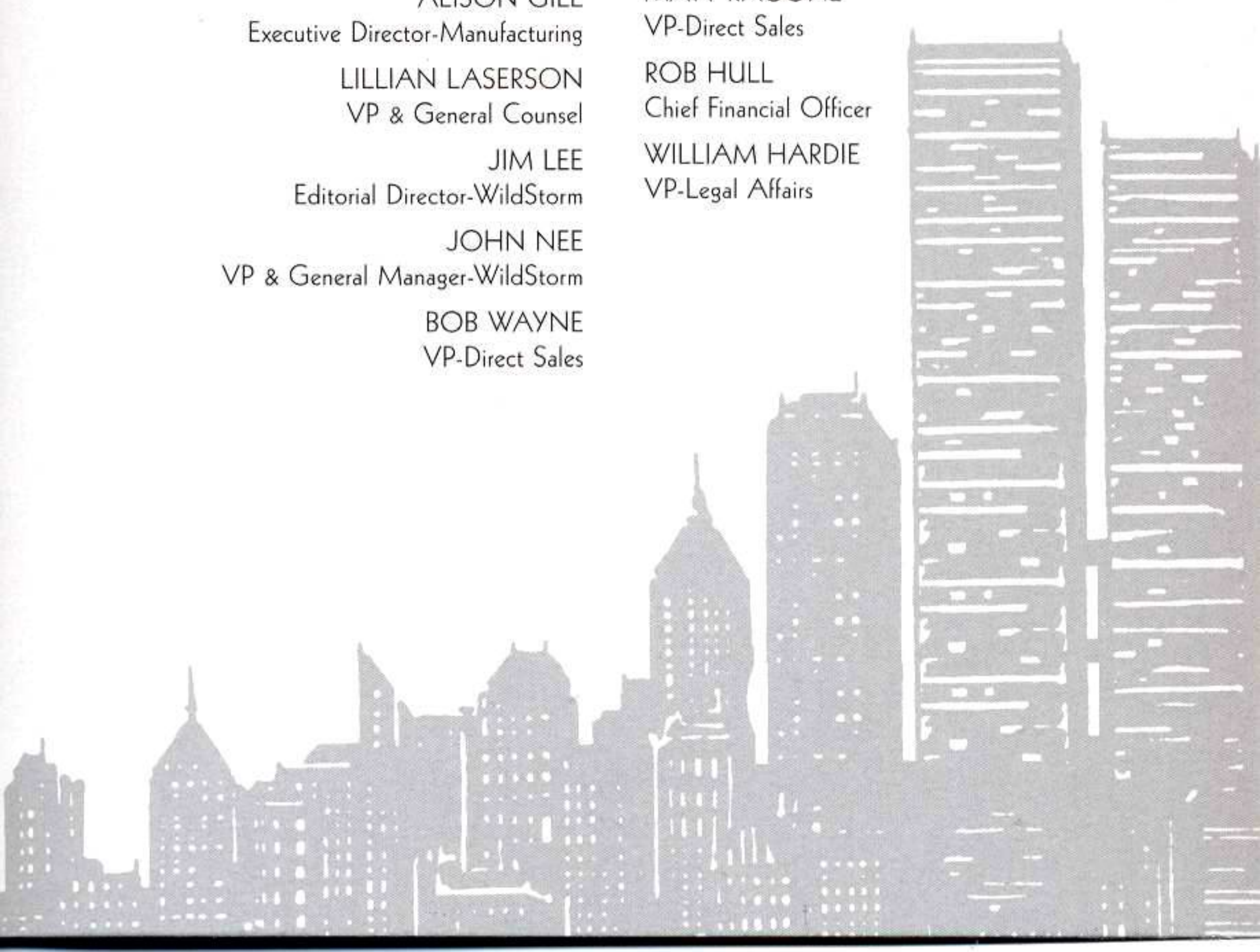
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